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NEWS RELEASE

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New Laws Enhance DMV Services for Military, Veterans and Families *DMV Provides an Array of Military-Friendly Initiatives*

RICHMOND – The Virginia General Assembly approved legislation that will add to the number of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) military-friendly initiatives.

Effective July 1, 2013, active duty members of the military, or spouses or dependents of active duty members, who have successfully completed a basic motorcycle rider training course approved by the United States Armed Services are exempt from the Virginia motorcycle knowledge and skills tests when adding a Virginia motorcycle classification to their valid Virginia driver's licenses. When applying for a motorcycle designation, a customer will need to provide a copy of his/her active duty military identification card and U.S. military-approved basic motorcycle rider training course certificate.

To make it easier for military members and families preparing for deployment, starting January 1, 2014, customers who operate vehicles registered in Virginia for only part of the year may temporarily deactivate their registrations and cancel the insurance without having to surrender the license plates to DMV. Service men and women can deactivate their vehicle registration and cancel insurance during deployment if the vehicle is not being used. Once a vehicle registration is reactivated, proof of insurance is required. The reactivation fee is \$10 if the registration has not expired.

"DMV is dedicated to serving those who serve our country," said DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb. "Both of these new laws mean fewer steps, and we hope that will make things easier for military members and their families."

These laws add to a growing list of DMV military and veteran-friendly initiatives. One year ago, DMV began issuing veteran ID cards for proof of veteran status to for those who served in several eras of military service to receive discounts from retailers and restaurants. Nearly 36,000 veterans ID cards have already been issued.

Approximately 150 soldiers and Marines have directly benefitted from DMV's Troops to TrucksSM program since it launched July 1, 2012. Through Troops to TrucksSM, DMV is helping service men and women obtain tools for future employment in the transportation industry. Similar to the new motorcycle endorsement law, military members with a military CDL may be exempt from taking the skills test. For military members with no or less than two years military driving experience, Troops to TrucksSM offers classroom and behind-the-wheel training right on post for participants before they leave service.

DMV's mobile offices, called *DMV 2 Go*, continue to make frequent stops at military installations throughout the Commonwealth. *DMV 2 Go* has monthly visits scheduled at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Fort Belvoir, Naval Station Norfolk, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Langley Air Force Base and more. *DMV 2 Go* also visits the Veteran medical centers and served soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's Emporia-based 1710th Transportation Company as they prepared for deployment to Afghanistan.

In October 2012, DMV opened a full service customer service center on post at Fort Lee. DMV has had a customer service center in the Pentagon since the 1970s and plans are in the works to open an office on Fort Belvoir later this year.

DMV also offers more than 30 military-themed special license plates.

For more information about DMV's military services, visit www.dmvNOW.com/military or download the Virginia DMV app on your mobile device.

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